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Figure in 2 Colorado Mysteries an Apparent Suicide

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DENVER, March 9—Mrs. Gloria Tannenbaum, the central figure in two unsolved Colorado mysteries, has d— sane, apparently a suicide.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, 39 years old, once regarded as a suspect in two poisoning deaths and in the disappearance of a University of Colorado professor of Russian history, died Sunday at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

The hospital authorities confirmed today, after earlier denials, that a suicide note had been found in a pocket of Mrs. Tannenbaum's dress.

Protests Her Innocence

Although an autopsy report will not be available until Thursday, the cause of death was believed to have been cyanide, the poison that killed two of Mrs. Tannenbaum's neighbors in Denver in 1969.

The woman, who once claimed to be a general doing intelligence work and bragged of her friendships in influential places, gave some of her possessions to fellow patients and wrote farewell letters to friends and family before she died.

In her suicide note and a letter to her lawyer, John Kokish of Denver, Mrs. Tannenbaum again protested her innocence in the disappearance of Dr. Thomas Ria, 40, and the deaths of Gustav F. Ingwersen, 78, and Mrs. Barbara Egbert, 51.

The letter to Mr. Kokish said, "It doesn't matter really, but I will tell you this. I didn't do Tom or Gus or Barb in. I went nuts with hurt over losing them."

Dr. Riha, who lived near the university campus in Boulder, disappeared March 14, 1969, and Mrs. Tannenbaum was subsequently charged in both Boulder and Denver in four separate felonies involving the disposal of his property.

As a result of one of those charges, that she had forged Dr. Riha's name to a $300 check, Mrs. Tannenbaum was found by a Boulder District Court jury to be legally insane and was ordered confined.

Search Is Unsuccessful

In the following months, the police in the Denver-Boulder area made a wide search for his body. They looked into abandoned mountain mine shafts and along isolated roads, and dug up the basement of an East Denver home once occupied by Mrs. Tannenbaum. But the missing professor has never been found. In the poisoning deaths, no evidence was developed that could support charges against Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Mr. Kokish said here today that a grand jury should be asked to investigate how Mrs. Tannenbaum obtained the poison that killed her. He said that the grand jury should also investigate complaints made to him in letters from Mrs. Tannenbaum that she had been mistreated and persecuted by the hospital staff.

Mr. Kokish said that his client was apparently looked upon at Pueblo "as a kind of the witch of the ward."

He quoted her final letter to him as saying, "Everything that has made me feel good about myself has been taken away. Life is very cheap."